

Message Text

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ACTION MCT-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 SY-05 PA-01 H-01 CA-01
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R 300707Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1718
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 4795

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, KU
SUBJECT: BONN SUMMIT ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION

REF: (A) STATE 186923, (B) STATE 212172, (C) STATE 208754.

1. SUMMARY: ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE SEVEN REPRESENTATIVES
OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT, I PRESENTED
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/FOREIGN MINISTER AN AIDE MEMOIRE
INCLUDING TEXT OF BONN SUMMIT DECLARATION ON HIJACKING OF
JULY 17, 1978. FOREIGN MINISTER STRONGLY REGISTERED GOK'S
OPPOSITION TO HIJACKING AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR OBJECTIVE
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OF DECLARATION. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RECOMMENDED
TO CABINET THE RATIFICATION OF THE HAGUE ANTI-HIJACKING CON-
VENTION, ADDING THAT HE VIEWED BONN DECLARATION AS COMPLEMENTING
THIS CONVENTION. GOK WOULD STUDY IT IN THIS LIGHT AND INFORM THE
SEVEN COUNTRIES OF ITS REACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. A MEETING AMONG THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES

WHOSE HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT ATTENDED THE BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT WAS HELD BY THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 26 TO COORDINATE A PRESENTATION OF THE ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION TO THE GOK. IT WAS AGREED IN THAT MEETING THAT I, AS SENIOR AMONG THE AMBASSADORS BRAVING THE HOT SUMMER IN KUWAIT (FRG, UK AND JAPAN), WOULD MAKE THE PRESENTATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. I WAS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE THREE AMBASSADORS, WHILE THE CHARGES D'AFFAIRES AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD IF THEY ALL WERE TO ATTEND.

3. WE THEREFORE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH ON AUGUST 29, AND I HANDED HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION (REF C), WHILE MAKING A PRESENTATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE TALKING POINTS LISTED BELOW WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE SEVEN REPRESENTATIVES.

4. BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

A. I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY MY AMBASSADORIAL COLLEAGUES PRESENT AND BY THE CHARGES D'AFFAIRES OF CANADA, FRANCE AND ITALY TO MAKE, ON BEHALF OF OUR GOVERNMENTS, A DEMARCHE ON THE SUBJECT OF AIRCRAFT HIJACKING.

B. WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT'S CONDEMNATION OF THE HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT. THIS POSITION HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED A NUMBER OF TIMES BY RESPONSIBLE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT

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OFFICIALS ON OCCASIONS OF HIJACKING, BOTH INVOLVING AND NOT INVOLVING KUWAIT DIRECTLY. WE RECALL THAT, AFTER THE JUNE 1977 HIJACKING OF A MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES PLANE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-ALI WAS QUOTED BY THE KUWAITI PRESS AS SAYING: "KUWAIT DEFINITELY REJECTS HIJACKING OPERATIONS REGARDLESS OF MOTIVES. IT WILL NOT PERMIT ANY HIJACKED PLANE TO LAND ON ITS TERRITORY FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, BECAUSE KUWAIT DOES NOT APPROVE AT ALL THE RESORTING TO AIRCRAFT HIJACKING FOR POLITICAL REASONS WITH THE AIM OF PUBLICIZING A CERTAIN ISSUE." YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE MADE STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, AS HAS HIS HIGHNESS THE HEIR APPARENT/PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN HIJACKINGS HERE IN KUWAIT IN HIS FORMER CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR.

C. IT WAS WITH THESE SAME THOUGHTS IN MIND THAT THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AT THE JULY BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND AGREED TO INTENSIFY JOINT EFFORTS TO COMBAT IT. TO THAT END THEY RESOLVED TO WITHHOLD AIR SERVICE TO AND DENY AIR SERVICE FROM COUNTRIES WHICH REFUSED TO PROSECUTE OR EXTRADITE AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS AND/OR DO NOT RETURN SUCH

AIRCRAFT. THEY THEREFORE ISSUED ON JULY 17 AN ANTI-HIJACKING
DECLARATION CONFIRMING THIS INTENTION.

D. THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN EFFORTS TO
ELIMINATE AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS AND OTHER FORMS OF TERRORIST
ACTIVITY. UNTIL THE BONN DECLARATION WAS ISSUED, THE SUMMIT
MEETING PARTICIPANTS LACKED A CONSENSUS ON HOW SUCH MATTERS
OF AIR SERVICE TO OFFENDING STATES SHOULD BE HANDLED. IT IS
SIGNIFICANT THAT THE AIR CARRIERS OF THE SEVEN NATIONS WHICH
SIGNED THIS DECLARATION REPRESENT MORE THAN HALF OF THE
WORLD'S AIR TRAFFIC IN SCHEDULED SERVICES.

E. I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF PRESENTING TO YOU, ON BEHALF
OF THE SEVEN NATIONS INVOLVED, AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING THE
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TEXT OF THE BONN DECLARATION ON HIJACKING. I WISH TO DRAW
YOUR ATTENTION ESPECIALLY TO THE LAST SENTENCE WHICH READS:
"THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT URGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO
JOIN THEM IN THIS COMMITMENT."

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F. EACH OF THE SAXEN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED WOULD APPRECIATE AN INDICATION OF THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THIS DECLARATION.

G. I MIGHT NOTE HERE THAT SUPPORT FOR THIS DECLARATION WOULD NOT ENTAIL MEMBERSHIP IN ANY INSTITUTION OR BECOMING A PARTY OF ANY NEW CONVENTION. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT ANY GOVERNMENT DECLARING ITS SUPPORT OF THE BONN DECLARATION AND HAVING A SIGNIFICANT AVIATION INTEREST IN A HIJACKING INCIDENT WILL PARTICIPATE IN POST-HIJACKING CONSULTATIONS. END TALKING POINTS.

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5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED TO MY PRESENTATION BY DECLARING THAT THE GOK FIRMLY OPPOSES HIJACKING. THE GOK DID NOT INTEND TO ALLOW HIJACKED PLANES TO LAND AT THE KUWAIT AIRPORT EXCEPT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND INSISTENCE OF ITS FRIENDS. HE PERSONALLY CONSIDERED HIJACKING A CRIMINAL ACTION.

6. SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THE RATIFICATION OF THE ANTI-HIJACKING CONVENTION. THE CABINET WAS CURRENTLY STUDYING THIS RECOMMENDATION. (PRESUMABLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS REFERRING TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION WHICH THE GOK HAS SIGNED, BUT POSSIBLY ALSO THE TOKYO AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS WHICH THE GOK HAS NEITHER SIGNED NOR RATIFIED.) HE STATED THAT KUWAIT CONSIDERS THE DECLARATION BY THE SEVEN COUNTRIES SERVES TO COMPLEMENT THE ANTI-HIJACKING CONVENTION AND IT WILL BE FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL STUDY AND CONSIDER IT. HE PROMISED TO GIVE US THE GOK'S REACTION.

7. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE ADHERE TO THE BONN ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION IN ORDER TO GIVE IT MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS.

8. THE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTED FURTHER ON KUWAIT'S DISTASTE FOR HIJACKINGS, NOTING IT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN FOUR OR MORE INCIDENTS, SOMETIMES AT THE URGENT REQUEST OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AFFECTED. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WILL ALL FIND A WAY TO COMBAT THROUGH COOPERATION THESE DISGRACEFUL HIJACKINGS WHICH ARE A MANIFESTATION OF THE MADNESS

WHICH SEEMS TO BE CROPPING UP THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN CONCLUSION, HE REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT WE COULD ALL COOPERATE TOGETHER IN THIS MATTER.

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9. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF ALL SEVEN COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND AGAIN REQUESTED THAT WE BE INFORMED OF THE GOK REACTION TO THE BONN DECLARATION.

10. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CLEARLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BONN ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT COMMIT HIS GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT OR TO ADHERE TO THE DECLARATION AT THIS POINT. THE FACT THE CABINET PRESENTLY HAS AT LEAST THE HAGUE CONVENTION UNDER REVIEW IS VERY ENCOURAGING SINCE THE PREVIOUS FOREIGN MINISTRY POSITION FAVORING RATIFICATION HAD BEEN QUALIFIED BY CONCERN THAT SUCH GOK ACTION WOULD BE REGARDED AS ANTI-PALESTINIAN IN NATURE. SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD'S COMMENT THAT THE DECLARATION COMPLEMENTED THE HAGUE CONVENTION MAY INDICATE THE LINE OF JUSTIFICATION WHICH THE GOK WOULD FOLLOW IF IT DECIDES TO ADHERE TO THE BONN DECLARATION.

11. THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION I PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE SEVEN REPRESENTATIVES HERE WAS ALTERED TO CORRECT THE GRAMMAR OF A PORTION OF THE SENTENCE IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH TO READ "DOES (INSTEAD OF "DO") NOT RETURN SUCH AIRCRAFT," SINCE THE SUBJECT "COUNTRY" IS SINGULAR. IN THE LATTER PORTION OF THE SAME SENTENCE, THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES HAD IN THEIR TEXT THE WORD "SHALL" RATHER THAN "SHOULD" BEFORE "TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION."
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